

We Claim:

1. An off-press plate-making apparatus comprising :
  - means for applying on a substrate a continuous image-recording layer which is capable of forming a lithographic image upon exposure to heat or light and optional processing; and
  - means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate.
2. An off-press plate-making apparatus according to claim 1 which further comprises :
  - means for exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light; and, optionally,
  - means for processing the exposed image-recording layer.
3. A plate-making apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for applying a continuous image-recording layer on a substrate comprise a spray nozzle or an ink-jet nozzle for applying a coating solution on the substrate.
4. A plate-making apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate comprise a spray nozzle or an ink-jet nozzle for applying a cleaning liquid on the substrate.
5. A plate-making apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for preparing an emulsion by mixing an organic liquid with an aqueous liquid.
6. A plate-making apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for separating an emulsion in an organic phase and an aqueous phase.
7. A printing system comprising a lithographic printing press and a plate-making apparatus according to any of the preceding claims.
8. A printing system according to claim 7 wherein the plate-making apparatus is mechanically coupled to the printing press by plate-loading means for transferring a printing plate precursor or a printing master from the plate-making apparatus to the printing

press and/or by plate-unloading means for transferring a printing master from the printing press to the plate-making apparatus.

9. A printing system according to claim 8 wherein the printing press is a multi-color printing press and wherein the plate-loading means and/or the plate-unloading means comprise a stacking apparatus.
10. A printing system according to claim 9 wherein the stacking apparatus is integrated in the plate-making apparatus.